

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A stage device, comprising:

a movable stage which has a first portion to support an object and a second portion, said first portion having a support surface to support said object;

a first drive mechanism which drives said movable stage in at least a first direction that is parallel to said support surface, at least part of the first drive mechanism being coupled to said second portion;

a second drive mechanism located between said first portion and said second portion to move said first portion in a second direction that crosses said support surface;

a first position detector which detects a position of said first portion in a predetermined first direction, said first position detector being optically connected to said first portion; and

a second position detector which detects a position of said second portion in said predetermined first direction, said second position detector being optically connected to said second portion.
2. (Currently Amended) The stage device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a stage controller which controls said first drive mechanism based on detection results obtained by said first position detector and said second position detector.
3. (Original) The stage device according to claim 1, wherein said first portion and said second portion are integrally formed.
4. (Currently Amended) The stage device according to claim 1, wherein said first drive mechanism comprises a linear motor.

5. (Currently Amended) An exposure apparatus which transfers a pattern of a mask onto an object, comprising:

an object stage which has a first portion to support said object and a second portion, said first portion having a support surface to support said object;

a first drive mechanism which drives said object stage in at least a first direction that is parallel to said support surface, at least part of the first drive mechanism being coupled to the second portion;

a second drive mechanism located between said first portion and said second portion to move said first portion in a second direction that crosses said support surface;

a first position detector which detects a position of said first portion in a predetermined first direction, said first position detector being optically connected to said first portion; and

a second position detector which detects a position of said second portion in said predetermined first direction, said second position detector being optically connected to said second portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The exposure apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a stage controller which controls the first drive mechanism based on a detection result obtained by said first position detector and said second position detector.

7. (Original) The exposure apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the exposure apparatus is a scanning type exposure apparatus which transfers said pattern while causing said mask and said object to move simultaneously.

8. (Original) The exposure apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a projection system which projects said pattern onto said object, said projection system disposed between said mask and said object.

9. (Currently Amended) The exposure apparatus according to claim 8, ~~further comprising wherein said~~ second drive mechanism ~~which~~ drives said object along an axis direction of said projection system.

10. - 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an exposure device, comprising the steps of:

providing a stage device having a first stage which movably supports an object by a support surface;

providing a first drive mechanism which drives said first stage in at least a first direction that is parallel to said support surface, said first stage having a first portion coupled to said first drive mechanism and a second portion ~~for supporting said object~~having said support surface, said first stage device including a first position measuring device which measures a position of said first portion in a predetermined measurement direction; and

providing a second drive mechanism located between said first portion and said second portion to move said second portion in a second direction that crosses said support surface; and

providing a first stage control system which controls said first drive mechanism to control the position of said object at least in said ~~at least a first~~ direction based on a measurement result obtained by said first position measuring device.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a position of a stage device that includes a movable stage which has a first portion to support an object by a support surface, a second portion and a drive mechanism which drives the movable stage in at least a first direction parallel to said support surface, at least part of the drive mechanism being coupled to the second portion, comprising the steps of:

moving said movable stage by said drive mechanism in said first direction;

moving said first portion in a second direction that crosses said support surface;

detecting a position of the first portion in a predetermined first direction with a first position detector that is optically connected to the first portion; and

detecting a position of the second portion in the predetermined first direction with a second position detector that is optically connected to the second portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:
controlling the drive mechanism based on detection results obtained by the first position detector and the second position detector.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the first portion and the second portion are integrally formed.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a linear motor.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a position of an exposure apparatus which transfers a pattern of a mask onto an object and that includes an object stage which has a first portion to support the object by a support surface, a second portion and a drive mechanism which drives the object stage in at least a first direction parallel to said support surface, at least part of the drive mechanism being coupled to the second portion, the method comprising the steps of:

moving said object stage by said drive mechanism in said first direction;

moving said first portion in a second direction that crosses said support surface;

detecting a position of the first portion in a predetermined first direction with a first position detector that is optically connected to the first portion; and

detecting a position of the second portion in the predetermined first direction with a second position detector that is optically connected to the second portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

controlling the drive mechanism based on a detection result obtained by the first position detector and the second position detector.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the exposure apparatus is a scanning type exposure apparatus which transfers the pattern while causing the mask and the object to move simultaneously.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the exposure apparatus includes a projection system which projects the pattern onto the object, the projection system disposed between the mask and the object.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising driving the object along an axis direction of the projection system with a second drive mechanism.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising driving the object in a direction different from the first direction with a second drive mechanism.